

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN FEBRUARY 1998

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in February 1998 decreased about 7% compared to the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Annualized production for the year thus far was 40.0 million metric tons, which was 11% lower than the total production in 1997 of 45.1 million tons.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used, excluding exports for February, decreased 12% from the prior month, to about 3 million tons. Annualized sales or use for the month was 40 million tons, which was less than 4% lower than the total for 1997.

U.S. producer ending stocks for February were slightly more than 1% higher than the figure shown in January. In the Florida-North Carolina region, stocks were 2% higher, while in the Idaho-Utah

region, stocks were the same as the previous month.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco are suppressed by the Bureau of the Census; total U.S. import tonnage was estimated by USGS to average 150,000 tons per month, or 1.8 million tons per year. February import data were not available at the time of publication.

Annualized domestic consumption for 1998 was calculated to be 41.7 million tons using annualized sold and used data and estimated trade data. Apparent domestic consumption for 1997, calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted import data, was 43.4 million tons.

TABLE 1
UNITED STATES PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks
United States:			
1997:			
February	3,600	3,150	7,170
March	3,910	3,560	7,570
April	3,970	3,410	7,920
May	4,110	3,790	7,970
June	3,830	3,500	8,130
July	3,690	3,330	8,270
August	3,900	3,510	8,490
September	3,810	3,600	8,560
October	3,670	3,570	8,450
November	3,540	3,340	8,320
December	3,200	3,450	7,940
Total	45,100	41,600	XX
1998:			
January	3,350	3,440	7,390
February	3,100	3,010	7,490
Total	6,450	6,450	XX
Florida and North Carolina:			
1997:			
February	3,170	2,820	5,390
March	3,460	3,160	5,730
April	3,460	2,960	6,180
May	3,460	3,230	6,370
June	3,130	3,040	6,520
July	2,950	2,820	6,680
August	3,150	2,920	6,920
September	2,950	3,040	6,860
October	2,900	3,130	6,610
November	2,830	2,960	6,430
December	2,680	3,090	5,890
Total	37,600	36,200	XX
1998:			
January	2,910	3,050	5,840
February	2,740	2,650	5,930
Total	5,650	5,700	XX
Idaho and Utah:			
1997:			
February	433	326	1,780
March	455	395	1,840
April	515	447	1,740
May	650	561	1,600
June	698	463	1,610
July	735	518	1,590
August	750	589	1,570
September	859	558	1,700
October	771	436	1,840
November	705	379	1,890
December	520	358	2,050
Total	7,470	5,420	XX
1998:			
January	446	392	1,550
February	364	360	1,550
Total	810	752	XX

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 1/ 2/ 3/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
1997:		
January	101	4,310
February	(4/)	23
March	67	3,800
April	58	3,150
May	60	3,240
June	68	4,160
July	62	3,790
August	62	3,800
September	67	4,090
October	112	3,360
November	163	6,190
December	89 r/	4,100 r/
Year to date	909	44,000
Total 5/	1,800	104,000
1998:		
January	164	4,920

r/ Revised.

1/ C.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

4/ Less than 1/2 unit.

5/ Includes estimate for data suppressed by Bureau of the Census.

Source: Bureau of the Census; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons per year and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	1996	1997	1998
United States:			
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	39.2	37.6	35.0
Idaho and Utah	6.2	7.5	5.0
Total 1/	45.4	45.1	40.0
Sold or used by producers: 2/			
Florida and North Carolina	38.1	36.2	35.3
Idaho and Utah	5.5	5.4	4.7
Total 1/	43.5	41.6	40.0
Yearend stocks	6.4	7.9	7.5
Exports	W	W	W
Average value per ton	\$35.82	\$33.08	\$40.28
Imports for consumption	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/
Average value per ton	57.91	\$48.67	NA
Apparent consumption 3/	43.7 e/	43.4 e/	41.7 e/

e/ Estimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Includes exports reported by producers.

3/ Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports, where imports are estimated to average about 150,000 tons per month (and though the average monthly estimate may appreciably exceed any one month's reported imports).